

GERMANY GUILTY OF BARBARITIES IN WAR CONDUCT

Atrocious Treatment of the Helpless Part of Campaign Plans of Military Leaders.

POLICY OF FRIGHTFULNESS

Terrorism Declared a Necessary Principle in National Warfare—Barbarities May Be Said to Be Directly Attributable to the Emperor Himself.

A pamphlet just issued by the Committee on Public Information tells of the horrors deliberately and systematically inflicted upon the people of Belgium by the German soldiers, under the orders of their commanding officers. Quotations given are from documents already made public or in the possession of the government at Washington.

For many years leaders in every civilized nation have been trying to make warfare less brutal. The great landmarks in this movement are the Geneva and Hague conventions. The former made rules as to the care of the sick and wounded and established the Red Cross. At the first meeting at Geneva, in 1864, it was agreed, and until the present war it has been taken for granted, that the wounded and the doctors and nurses who cared for them would be safe from all attacks by the enemy. The Hague conventions, drawn up in 1899 and 1907, made additional rules to soften the usages of war and especially to protect non-combatants and conquered lands. Germans took a prominent part in these meetings, and with the other nations solemnly pledged their faith to keep all the rules except one article in the Hague regulations. This was article 44, which forbade the conqueror to force any of the conquered to give information. All the other rules and regulations she accepted in the most binding manner.

But Germany's military leaders had no intention of keeping these solemn promises. They had been trained along different lines. Their leading generals for many years had been urging a policy of frightfulness. In the middle of the nineteenth century Von Clausewitz was looked upon as the greatest military authority, and the methods which he advocated were used by the Prussian army in its successful cause; these wars had been successful; the wisdom of Von Clausewitz must needs seem to the Prussian army to be fully proved.

Policy of Frightfulness.

Now the essence of Von Clausewitz's teaching was that successful war involves the ruthless application of force. In the opening chapter of his master work "Vom Kriege" ("On War"), he says:

"Violence arm itself with the invincibility of art and science. Self-imposed restrictions, almost incomprehensible and hardly worth mentioning, termed usages of international law accompany it without essentially impairing its power."

Now philistine souls might easily imagine that there is a skilful method of disarming or subduing an enemy without causing too much bloodshed, and that this is the true tendency of the art of war. However plausible this may appear, still it is an error which must be destroyed; for in such dangerous things as war, the errors which proceed from a spirit of good-naturedness are precisely the worst.

As the use of physical force to the utmost extent by no means excludes the co-operation of the intelligence, it follows that he who uses force ruthlessly with regard to bloodshed, must obtain a superiority if his enemy does not use it."

In 1877-78, in the course of a series of articles upon "Military Necessity and Humanity," General von Hartmann wrote in the same spirit as Von Clausewitz:

"The enemy state must not be spared the want and wretchedness of war; these are particularly useful in shattering its energy and subduing its will." "Individual persons may be harshly dealt with when an example is made of them intended to serve as a warning." "Whenever a national war breaks out, terrorism becomes a necessary military principle." "It is a gratuitous illusion to suppose that modern war does not demand far more brutality, far more violence, and an action far more general than was formerly the case." "When international war has burst upon us, terrorism becomes a principle made necessary by military considerations."

"War Established by God."

In 1883 Von Moltke, who had been commander-in-chief of the Prussian army in the Franco-Prussian war, declared:

"Perpetual peace is a dream and not even a beautiful dream. War is an element in the order of the world established by God. By it the most noble virtues of man are developed, courage and renunciation, fidelity to duty and the spirit of sacrifice—the soldier goes his life. Without war, the world would degenerate and lose itself in materialism." "The soldier who endures suffering, privation and fatigue, who counts dangers, cannot take only so proportion to the resources of the country." He must take all that is nec-

essary to his existence. One has no right to demand of him anything superhuman." "The great good in war is that it should be ended quickly. In view of this, every means, except those which are positively condemnable must be permitted. I cannot, in any way, agree with the declaration of St. Petersburg when it pretends that the weakening of the military forces of the enemy constitutes the only legitimate method of procedure in war. No! One must attack all the resources of the enemy government, his finances, his railroads, his stock of provisions and even his prestige."

Many other examples might be cited from the writings of German generals. The very best illustration of this attitude, however, is to be found in the emperor's various speeches, and especially in his speech to his soldiers on the eve of their departure for China in 1900. On July 27 the kaiser went to Bremerhaven to bid farewell to the German troops. As they were drawn up ready to embark for China, he addressed to them a last official message from the fatherland. The local newspaper reported his speech in full. It appeared this advice and admonition from the emperor, the commander in chief of the army, the head of all Germany:

Soldiers Told to Be Merciless.

"As soon as you come to blows with the enemy he will be beaten. No mercy will be shown! No prisoners will be taken! As the Huns under King Attila made a name for themselves which is still mighty in tradition and legend today, may the name of Germany be so fixed in China by your deeds that no Chinese shall ever again dare even to look at a German askance. Open the way for Kufing once and all."

Even the imperial councilors seem to have been shocked at the emperor's speech, and efforts were promptly made to suppress the circulation of his exact words. The efforts were only partly successful. A few weeks later when the letters from the German soldiers in China were being published in local German papers, the leading socialist newspaper, Vorwärts, excerpted from them reports of atrocities under the title "Letters of the Huns." Many of the leaders in the relishing felt very keenly the brutality of the emperor's speech. The omnious word "Huns" had excited almost universal condemnation. When the Reichstag met in November, the speech was openly discussed. Herr Licher of the center (Catholic party) after quoting the "no mercy" portion of the speech, added, "There are slavish in Germany groups enough who have regarded the atrocities told in the letters which have been published as the dutiful response of soldiers so addressed and encouraged." The leader of the social democrats, Herr Bebel, spoke even more pointedly. Toward the end of a two-hour address on the atrocities committed by the German soldiers in China and on the speech of the emperor, he said:

"If Germany wishes to be the leader of civilization in the world, we will go forward without contradiction. But the ways and means in which this world policy has been carried on thus far, in which it has been defined by the emperor . . . are not in our opinion, the way to possess the world position of Germany to gain for Germany the respect of the world."

The consequences of the emperor's speech Bebel aptly described:

"By it the signal was given, carved in the highest authority of the German empire, which must have most weighty consequences, not only for the troops who went to China but also for those who stayed at home. An expedition of revenge so barbarous as this has never occurred in the last hundred years and not often in history; at least, nothing worse than this has happened in history, either done by the Huns, by the Vandals, by Genghis Khan, by Tamerlane, or even by Hitler when he sacked Magdeburg."

Atrocities in China.

These atrocities in China or "Letters of the Huns" continued to be published in the Vorwärts for several years and appeared intermittently in the debates of the Reichstag as late as 1909. At that time the socialist, Herr Kautz, reviewing the procedure in a trial of which he had been the victim in the previous summer, stated that he had offered to prove that German soldiers in China had engaged in wanton and brutal ravaging; that plunder, pillage, extortion, robbery, as well as rape and sexual abuses of the worst kind, had occurred on a very large scale and that German soldiers had participated in them. He had not been given an opportunity to prove his allegations, but had been sentenced to prison for three months for assaulting the honor of the "whole German army."

The outcome of this sentence was made clear by the revelations, made in the following shortly afterwards, of similar atrocities committed by German officials and soldiers in Africa in the campaign against the Hereros.

These ideas, which have come to control the minds of the military class, are best shown in the "German War Book" ("Kriegsbuch im Landkrieg"), published in 1902. The tone of this authoritative book may be judged from the following extracts:

Teachings of German War Book.

"But since the tendency of thought in the last century was dominated essentially by humanitarian considerations which not infrequently degenerated into sentimentalism and wishy-washy (Sentimentalität und wishy-washy Gedanken), there have not been wanting attempts to influence the development of the usage of war in a way which was in fundamental contradiction with the nature of war and its object. Attempts to do this will also not be wanting in the future, the more so as these agitations have found a kind of moral

recognition in some provisions of the Geneva convention and the Brussels and Hague conferences."

"By steeping himself in military history an officer will be able to guard himself against excessive humanitarian notions; it will teach him that certain severities are indispensable to war, may more, that the only true humanity very often lies in a ruthless application of them."

For the guidance of the officers in case the inhabitants of conquered territory should take up arms against the German army, the "German War Book" quotes with approval the letter Napoleon sent to his brother Joseph when the inhabitants of Italy were attempting to revolt against him:

The security of your dominion depends on how you behave in the conquered province. Burn down a dozen places which are not willing to submit themselves. Of course, not until you have first looted them; my soldiers must not be allowed to go away with their hands empty. Have three to six persons hanged in every village which has joined the revolt; pay no respect to the cossack! (that is, to members of the clergy.)

Officers Trained to Be Savagery.

Some of the rules laid down in the "German War Book" are illustrated, and their spirit made more definite in "L'Interprète Militaire sur le Guerrier en Peinture" ("Military Interpreter for Use in the Enemy's Country"). This is a manual edited at Berlin in 1908. "It contains," says the introduction, "the French translation of the greater part of documents, letters, and proclamations, and some orders of which it may be necessary to make use in time of war." Thus eight years before this war began, the German military authorities were not only preparing their officers to wage war in a manner wholly contrary to The Hague regulations, but also were looking forward to the use of these proclamations in French or Belgian territory. Among its forms, ready for use by inserting names, date, and place, are the following:

A fine of 600,000 marks in consequence of an attempt made by — to assassinate a German soldier, is imposed on the town of O. By order of —

Efforts have been made, without result, to obtain the withdrawal of the fine.

The term fixed for payment expires tomorrow, Saturday, December 17, at noon —

Bank notes, cash, or silver plate will be accepted."

I have to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated the 5th of this month, in which you bring to my notice the great difficulty which you expect to meet in levying the contributions.

I can but regret the explanations which you have thought proper to give me on this subject; the order in question which emanates from my government is so clear and precise, and the instructions which I have received in the matter are so categorical that if the sum due by the town of R — is not paid the town will be burned down without pity!"

Ruthless Destruction Ordered.

"On account of the destruction of the bridge of F —, I order: The district will pay a special contribution of 10,000,000 francs by way of amends. This is brought to the notice of the public, who are informed that the method of assessment of the said sum will be enforced with the utmost severity."

The village of F — will be destroyed immediately by fire, with the exception of certain buildings occupied for the use of the troops."

These forms have been of great use to the German commanders in Belgium and northern France. The closeness with which they have been followed in these conquered lands, during the present war, may be seen by reading these two proclamations:

"The City of Brussels, exclusive of its suburbs, has been punished by an additional fine of 5,000,000 francs on account of the attack made upon a German soldier by Ryckers, one of its police officials.

"The Governor of Brussels,
BARON VON LUETTICHTZ"
November 1, 1914.

Placard posted on the walls of Lüneville by order of the German authorities:

"Notice to the People:

"Some of the inhabitants of Lüneville made an attack from ambuscade on the German columns and wagons (train). The same day (some of) the inhabitants shot at sanitary formations marred with the Red Cross. In addition German wounded and the military ambulance were fired upon."

Because of these acts of hostility a fine of 650,000 francs is imposed upon the commune of Lüneville. The mayor is ordered to pay this sum in gold or silver up to 50,000 francs, September 6, 1914, at nine o'clock in the morning, to the representative of the German military authority. All protests will be considered null and void. No delay will be granted.

If the commune does not punctually obey the order to pay the sum of 650,000 francs, all property that can be levied upon will be seized.

In case of non-payment, visits from house to house will be made and all the inhabitants will be searched. If anyone knowingly has concealed money or attempted to hold back his goods from the seizure by the military authorities, or if anyone attempts to leave the city, he will be shot.

The mayor and the hostages taken by the military authorities will be held responsible for the exact execution of the above orders.

The mayor is ordered to publish immediately this notice to the commune.

VON FASBENDER.

Temperance Notes

(Conducted by the National Woman's Christian Temperance Union)

TO THE MODERATE DRINKER.

"Nations, as well as individuals, are accepting the unquestioned nervous damage of alcohol," says Dr. Robert S. Carroll in his book, "The Mastery of Nervousness." Many appalling and distorted statements have been made to frighten the drinker from his cups. But it would seem that when a committee appointed by a government to investigate the harmful effects of alcohol reports that the drinker's life is shortened 25 minutes by every glass of alcohol liquor, even the reckless would hesitate. Six years are knocked off the earthly existence of the average drinker. The tippler answers that it is his own life that is shortened, and if he pleases so to live and die, he alone is hurt. There is another thing to be considered:

"Three out of four of the offspring of average drinkers show inherited defects, chiefly of the nervous system. Many an intense, unhappy, nervous, bad-tempered neurotic of today is the defective daughter of a genial, joyful, exuberant, old-school gentleman whose son's father of grandfathership had run hot in the tempests of his childhood. Numbers of fearless epileptics go through lives of fierce uncertainty, the sudden products of a single moment's spasm. These innocent victims are condemned before birth to live with nervous systems attuned to disease, unable of exerting life only through plainer straits, hopelessly delirious, pitiable, depressed, mortified, blighted trees."

THE WINNING ARGUMENT.

"It is idle to argue from prophecies when we may argue from history," pitifully said Sidney Lanier. What has really happened as the result of dry laws is of more value as prohibition argument than all the prognostications of liquor advocates in aid of territory now wet. In a recent campaign issue the Union Signal gives column after column to this worthwhile history argument. First-hand testimony from 14 dry states (there was no space for more) proves that prohibition is a boon and a blessing, socially and economically; that it increases man power and money power. "The success argument," says the editor, "is the winning factor in present-day prohibition campaigns. It effectively silences the opponents." That argument is abundantly supplied by enthusiastic statements continually given out by governors, attorney generals, mayors, sheriffs, bankers, by business managers, labor commissioners, and prominent residents of prohibition states.

DRY BITS.

Grammar a la prohibition:
Dry: Comparative.
Dryer: Superlative.
Bone dry: In 1920 the United States will be in the superlative condition.

Homespuns play a very important part in village life in Palestine, writes Rev. C. T. Wilson in "Utopian Life in the Holy Land." In the hilly districts the one-story rooms are often built back to the side of the knoll or hill on which the village stands; or where it is in a valley, a perpendicular rock surface will occasionally be utilized as one of the walls, and the roof will thus be on a level with the street above. Where such a village is dependent on the rain for its water supply, the roof will be made flush with the roadway, in order to get a greater area from which to collect the water for the cistern below. When this is done it is often impossible to tell from where above where the street ends and the roof begins.

The roofs, although really desired are not infrequently afterward leveled so as to make them quite flat, or sloping slightly to one corner to throw off the rain more easily. They are put to an infinite variety of uses thus, in a village built on the side of a particularly steep valley, where it was almost impossible to find a flat space, I have seen a house-top used as a threshing floor. Where the house is not built against the hillsides, faggots of hemlock wood, used by the women for firewood, are often piled up on the roof for safety. During the dry season I have seen goats and sheep folded there at night, and in the hot, sultry nights of summer the whole family will frequently sleep on the house-top. In the case of a number of rooms built onto each other for a family of sons, the roofs will join, though sometimes at different levels. In some cases these roofs are reached from the streets by an outside staircase.

LIQUOR AND LABOR.

A department superintendent of one of the big tire factories in Akron, Ohio, uses 60 men in each shift. They are making gas masks, miners respirators, and other vital war material. That department is working only two shifts a day instead of three, because of the scarcity of labor. They pay off on Friday. On one Saturday only six of the sixty men in one shift reported for work. "Ninety per cent of our labor troubles are due to booze," says this superintendent. If the government would shut down on the liquor traffic we could increase our output enormously. There is no lack of labor. The only trouble is to keep it working full time."

PASSING OF THE PENITENTIARY.

Citizens of Colorado are inquiring what is to become of the state penitentiary a few years hence. Despite the increase in population the prison quota, Warden Tyner says, has been reduced since prohibition went into effect at the rate of ten a month. Should this ratio be maintained the penitentiary will be emptied in less than six years.

Other dry states face similar situations. If Kansas were not providing for federal prisoners and prisoners from other states, most of her penal institutions would be closing up.

WHY HER COW IS LIKE KENTUCKY.

First Lady—Did you know I have the dearest little pig, and I call it Ink? Second Lady—And why do you call your pig Ink?

First Lady—Sure, because it runs out of the pen.

Second Lady—Aw, bud, cess to ya! But did ye know that I have a cow, I have that and I call her Kentucky?

First Lady—And why do you call your cow Kentucky?

Second Lady—Because she's going dry.

A GREAT DISCOVERY

(By J. H. Watson, M. D.)

Swollen hands, ankles, feet are due to a drooping condition, often caused by disordered kidneys. Naturally when the kidneys are deranged the blood is filled with poisonous waste matter, which settles in the feet, ankles and wrists, or under the eyes in bag-like formations.

Dr. S. A. Pierce, of those easily recognized symptoms of inflammation caused by uric acid—as scalding urine, burning, frequent urination, as well as sediment in the urine, or if uric acid is retained in the body, rheumatism, lameness, sciatica, gout. It is simply wonderful how quickly Anuric acts, the pains and stiffness rapidly disappear, for Anuric is more potent than lime and often eliminates uric acid.

Dr. Pierce's Pleasant Pellets for the Liver and Bowels have been favorably known for many years.

Anuric is a recent specific discovery by Dr. Pierce, Chief of Staff at the Invalids' Hotel and Surgical Inst., in Baltimore, N. Y. Send me there for a trial package of Anuric. Large pack, 25 cents.

SPOHN MEDICAL CO., Mrs. Goschen, Ind., U. S. A.

GOSSIP OF ST. LOUIS